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Imagery analysis report

Upgrading of a Motorized Rifle Division In the Ural Military District, USSR (S)

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UPGRADING OF A MOTORIZED RIFLE DIVISION IN THE URAL MILITARY DISTRICT, USSR (S)

1. (S/D) Major construction and additional equipment at Sverdlovsk Army Barracks AL-7 [] and Sverdlovsk Army Barracks Pyshma AL-8 [] indicate that the 34th Motorized Rifle Division¹ is probably being upgraded from category III to category II status.

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2. (S/D) Construction at Sverdlovsk Army Barracks AL-7 (Figure 1) began in early 1979. By [] three multistory barracks had been constructed, and two large T-shaped messhalls were under construction on either side of the main administration building. In addition, four vehicle storage buildings, guardhouses at the west and east gates, and three multistory apartment buildings had been constructed; approximately 12 vehicle storage buildings had been razed. The fenceline on the northwest side had been extended, increasing the installation area by one-third. The POL storage area had been relocated in the south corner, adjacent to the vehicle storage area, and the engineer battalion, the chemical defense battalion, the signal battalion, and the maintenance battalion had been transferred from the southeast vehicle park to fenced vehicle parks in the northwest corner. The reconnaissance battalion previously housed in the vehicle storage area had also been moved to the northwest corner. The antiaircraft regiment, originally believed to be out of garrison on 6 May, was later observed in the training area at Sverdlovsk Army Barracks Pyshma AL-8. The vehicle park vacated by the antiaircraft regiment was then occupied by elements of the artillery regiment, consisting of 18 122mm howitzers M-30 and 12 152mm gun howitzers D-20, as well as by two field guns M-46, 46 field artillery pieces, four FROG resupply semitrailers, and elements of a multiple rocket launcher battalion.

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3. (S/D) Increases in equipment were also observed at Sverdlovsk AL-7. Six GSP heavy amphibious ferries were identified in the engineer battalion area in December 1979. A PMP folding ponton bridge company was identified with the engineer battalion in its new vehicle park in June 1980; and the number of ARS-14 decontamination vehicles in the chemical defense battalion and the number of signal van trucks associated with the signal battalion were increased. In October 1980, 18 BMP armored personnel carriers were newly identified in the northeast motorized rifle regiment vehicle park (Figure 2). In late October, another 22 BMPs were also observed in the newly expanded northwest corner. A second motorized rifle regiment also had received a battalion of 18 122mm howitzers D-30 by late October.

4. (S/D) At Sverdlovsk Army Barracks Pyshma AL-8, increased construction was observed (Figure 3). [] four weeks after the arrival of the antiaircraft regiment from Sverdlovsk AL-7, earth grading for three vehicle storage buildings was observed in the training area adjacent to the tank storage area. [] a fenceline had been erected around the area. A 17-bay double-depth vehicle storage building in the motorized rifle regiment area was also nearly complete, and grading for two additional buildings was observed in the southeast corner of the installation.

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DOCUMENT

1. DIA. DDB-1100-UR-79, *Ground Order of Battle (GOB)—USSR (U)*, 20 Aug 79 (SECRET)

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Next 2 Page(s) In Document Denied

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